

the leadership of Coach Dip Metress, the Blue Crew played an incredible season that bodes well for the future of the program. Their athleticism and determination put Augusta State in the national spotlight, establishing its team as a national contender. As Augusta State University's representative in Congress, I couldn't be more proud of what these young men have accomplished.

HONORING GALE "WHITEY"
FLOCKERZIE OF BELLVILLE, OHIO

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep respect to honor the life and service of Mr. Gale "Whitey" Flockerzie of Bellville, Ohio.

Like many in his generation, Whitey thinks of himself as an ordinary guy. He served the nation with honor in the United States Army. He was wounded in combat in Vietnam, fighting as a member of Battery A of the 6th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, 4th Infantry Division.

Whitey was honorably discharged as a Specialist Fourth Class and returned stateside. In 1973, he opened Whitey's Barbershop on a quiet street in the quiet town of Bellville. Things haven't been the same since!

Over time, customers became friends, and friends have become what is known throughout the area as the "Barbershop Crew." More than a quarter-million haircuts later, the crew still gathers every Saturday morning at Whitey's for a town hall meeting to share opinions on the issues of the day. More importantly, they wait to hear Whitey's verdict—which, of course, is final.

Madam Speaker, I submit to you that if Congress followed some of the common sense and Midwestern logic employed by Whitey and the Barbershop Crew, the country would be in far better shape.

Is Whitey Flockerzie an ordinary guy? I would say he is extraordinary. The only thing ordinary about Whitey is that he represents a profound yet humble greatness about America that has helped us become the greatest nation in history: service before self, giving back to the country that gave so much to you, and living by example the sacrifice that allows each generation of Americans to reach higher than the last.

Whitey returned from Vietnam without officially receiving his Vietnam Service Ribbon. Out of respect and admiration, his friends recently obtained this ribbon for him and have graciously asked me to present it to him this weekend.

Throughout his lifetime of service, Whitey Flockerzie has affected countless lives in his part of Ohio. I am honored to recognize him on behalf of the House for all he has done.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE ALBANIA, CROATIA AND MACEDONIA INTO NATO MEMBERSHIP

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce a bipartisan resolution expressing the strong support of the House of Representatives for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, to extend invitations for membership to Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia at this week's Heads of State and Government summit in Bucharest, Romania. Representatives MARK SOUDER, ELIOT ENGEL, EARL POMEROY, and CANDICE MILLER have joined me in this effort.

Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia have been preparing for NATO membership for more than 8 years, and are undergoing a historic process of democratic and free market transformation after emerging from decades of occupation. They have made important improvements in the areas of ethnic diversity, human rights, free market economic principles, and the promotion of good neighborly relations.

They can also play important roles in NATO activities in southeastern Europe, through their unique geostrategic position. Lasting stability and security in southeastern Europe requires the military, economic, and political integration of emerging democracies into existing European structures.

In addition, Macedonia, Albania, and Croatia have been steadfast partners in the war on terror and the war in Iraq, sending troops to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is also important to note that Macedonia was the only former Yugoslav republic to win independence from Yugoslavia in the 1990s without bloodshed.

Madam Speaker, I proudly support the efforts of Macedonia, Croatia, and Albania to join NATO, and urge my colleagues in the House to support their efforts as well.

TRIBUTE TO HELLIER HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize some individuals in my district who are committed to maintaining ties to their community. In Pike County, the Hellier High School shut down a long time ago and many of its graduates scattered to all parts of the country. While it is true that many young people leave their hometowns, it is especially true in our region, dependent as it was on industries that rely on limited natural resources.

So it takes a special effort to remember those from high school. As young people reach that turning point where childhood is left behind and the tough choices about what career to choose, how to start a family and where to live come all at once, it is all too

easy to leave those memories behind as we become adults.

The Hellier High School "Hellcats" have developed a strong alumni network to ensure that the past is more than something found in pages of an old year book. Rather, they make this part of Pike County stronger today by meeting every Memorial Day weekend and posting photos and comments on their alumni website.

They meet every May 24 and a growing number of re-connected alumni rightfully consider this "Hellier High School Day." This year, eight more alumni were inducted into their alumni hall of fame, going back to the 1930's. They are starting an annual award for their 1941 basketball captain, Victor Ratliff, who lost his life defending our country in World War II.

We are working very hard to make our region of Kentucky one where people want to stay and raise their own families, and we are succeeding. We succeed because people remember the rich traditions and the values that guide the way during challenges that inevitably come later in life.

I am proud of the Hellier High School graduates who make the effort to embrace their past. In doing so, they remind us of what really counts in life—the people you meet along the way, fellow students, coaches, teachers, who play a critical role in making us productive citizens later on.

Every town needs people committed to making their communities better by actively participating in it. Communities are built by one high school, one church or one civic group at a time. They do not have to dry up and go away if we chose not to let them. We are fortunate to have that in Pike County, at the Hellier High School.

The people connected to Hellier High School made it more than an old school building. It is a symbol for many who wish never to forget the place they came from.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
JENA STUTZMAN FOR WINNING
THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Jena Stutzman showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Jena Stutzman was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Jena Stutzman always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Jena Stutzman on winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.